

Lamb begins, if it is all right with you, Senator, Education Committee will have an Executive Session underneath the south balcony, Education Committee, underneath the south balcony. I have no amendments on 753, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members, I brought this bill to the body to deal with a special situation in our sparsely settled areas that have problems keeping hospital districts alive economically. We have a situation in Mullen, Nebraska where it is 72 miles to the nearest hospital. Those people would like to have the right to vote as to whether or not the tax levy would be increased in order to keep the hospital operating. The problem is that if the hospital goes down it is quite certain that the doctor will no longer be there. If the doctor is no longer there, the nursing home, which is filled to overflowing most of the time, will also disappear. It is a special circumstance regarding the situation up there. I might point out that under present statute county hospitals, as opposed to a hospital district, do have the authority to levy this additional 3 1/2 cents. So, we are bringing the authority of the hospital districts up to match that which is currently enjoyed by hospital districts which are county hospitals. But it also forces the people to vote on the measure. So we are building all the safeguards that we can into the bill. I would ask that the bill be advanced.

PRESIDENT: Senator Pappas.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Yes, would Senator Lamb respond to a question or two?

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR PAPPAS: If they vote for an increase, and it goes in, is it in permanently, or is it in to take care of the existing debts, or will it just be there forever?

SENATOR LAMB: I think the way it works, it will be continuous, that there will be not a vote, for instance, every year. Unless there is some vote to revoke it then it would be a vote...be a continuous levy.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Okay, thank you.